

# Agency 87 - Accountability & Disclosure Commission

## Statutory Authority:

The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission was created in 1976 by the Nebraska Legislature within the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. The Act and operational concomitant statutes are cited as Nebraska Revised Statutes Section 49-1401 through Section 49-14,141 inclusive.

The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission is also responsible for implementing the provisions of the Campaign Finance Limitation Act of 1996. The CFLA is cited within Nebraska Revised Statutes 32-1601 through 32-1614.

## Vision Statement:

The Vision of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission is to advance equity and integrity in government within the State of Nebraska by improving and ensuring accountability.

## Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission is to promote greater accountability for and among Nebraska's public sector employees and officials, and to provide and maintain a mechanism for the public disclosure of information relative to public employment and the financing of election and ballot question campaigns.

## Goals:

### I. Campaign Activities:

Program 94 Goal 1. To promote accountability, disclosure, and guidance with respect to the conduct and funding of elections, and to provide a method for greater disclosure and accountability in order to serve the "public interest."

### II. Conflicts of Interest:

Program 94 Goal 2. To provide a method for ensuring that public officials and employees are independent and impartial, and to provide a method for ensuring "that governmental decisions and policy," and "public office or employment" are never "used for private gain other than the compensation provided by law."

### III. Lobbying Practices:

Program 94 Goal 3. To ensure that lobbyists have a method of reporting their activities in a manner that ensures the integrity of the lobbying process.

### IV. Campaign Finance Limitations Act

Program 95 Goal 4. To help increase "the number of qualified candidates able to run for public office."

## Financial Data:

|                | Actual FY00 | Approp FY01 | Request FY02 | Recom FY02 | Request FY03 | Recom FY03 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| General Fund   | 345,543     | 421,875     | 436,661      | 439,498    | 436,782      | 456,969    |
| Cash Fund      | 165         | 361,305     | 605,260      | 605,260    | 607,390      | 607,390    |
| Federal Fund   | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Revolving Fund | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Other Fund     | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Total Agency   | 345,708     | 783,180     | 1,041,921    | 1,044,758  | 1,044,172    | 1,064,359  |

## Agency 87 - Accountability & Disclosure Commission

### Program 094 - Administration

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#### Program Objectives:

The objectives of program 94 of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission essentially advance the majority of the Agency's goals. The objectives of this program are accomplished by completing a series of operational activities. In essence, program 94 is the primary administrative process of the agency. There are three categories within the program. The categories are campaign finance, (CF) conflicts of interest, (CI) and lobbying activities (LA). The main objective of (CF) is to improve the disclosure process which ultimately fosters open fair elections. The main objective of (CI) is to improve the disclosure process, which ultimately fosters public accountability. The Main objective of (LA) is to improve the legislative process.

#### Financial Data:

|                | Actual FY00 | Approp FY01 | Request FY02 | Recom FY02 | Request FY03 | Recom FY03 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| General Fund   | 345,543     | 421,875     | 436,661      | 439,498    | 436,782      | 456,969    |
| Cash Fund      | 114         | 34,490      | 109,490      | 109,490    | 49,420       | 49,420     |
| Federal Fund   | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Revolving Fund | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Other Fund     | 0           | 0           | 0            | 0          | 0            | 0          |
| Total Agency   | 345,657     | 456,365     | 546,151      | 548,988    | 486,202      | 506,389    |

#### Performance Measures:

In the past, the performance measures of this agency were primarily based upon activity, work output, or volume of reports filed. This is not a particularly useful measure since the number of reports which must be filed changes significantly from year to year. Factors which affect the number of filings required include whether it is, or is not, an election year; whether an election year is a gubernatorial election year; and the number of public offices in which an incumbent is seeking reelection. Thus, a simple comparison from year to year of the number of reports filed does not in any way indicate the level of compliance with the Act. A better measure of performance would be to compare the number of reports filed on a timely basis to the number of reports filed late and compute the percent of variance. Even this measure is more a measure of the performance of the filers than of the agency. However, it may provide anecdotal information on the effectiveness of the Commission's instructional materials and seminars.

# **Agency 87 - Accountability & Disclosure Commission**

## **Program 095 - Campaign Finance Limitation Act Cash Fund**

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### **Program Objectives:**

The primary objective of the program 95, The Campaign Finance Limitations Act, is to increase the number of qualified candidates for public office in the State of Nebraska by using public funds to assist in the financing of certain Campaigns.

### **Financial Data:**

|                       | <b>Actual FY00</b> | <b>Approp FY01</b> | <b>Request FY02</b> | <b>Recom FY02</b> | <b>Request FY03</b> | <b>Recom FY03</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                 | 0                   | 0                 |
| <b>Cash Fund</b>      | 51                 | 326,815            | 495,770             | 495,770           | 557,970             | 557,970           |
| <b>Federal Fund</b>   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                 | 0                   | 0                 |
| <b>Revolving Fund</b> | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                 | 0                   | 0                 |
| <b>Other Fund</b>     | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                 | 0                   | 0                 |
| <b>Total Agency</b>   | 51                 | 326,815            | 495,770             | 495,770           | 557,970             | 557,970           |

### **Performance Measures:**

The first election to which the CFLA applied was in 1996. Because of modifications to the CFLA in 1997, it is difficult to establish performance measures for this program based upon a comparison between the 1996 election and the 1998 election. As of the date of submission, only one complete election cycle (1998) has taken place under the 1997 modifications. However, a logical performance measure would be the number of candidates seeking each office. It may be possible to establish this performance measure once the 2000 election cycle is complete.